

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub 14
A2
1. A method for a manufacturer to automate a catalog process, the method comprising:
creating a catalog of configurable products including at least one of non-commodity products and services; and
presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the presenting via a communication medium to a purchaser.
 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the purchaser includes at least one of a customer, a third party acting on behalf of the customer and a supplier.
 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the manufacturer includes a third party acting on behalf of the manufacturer.
 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of a third party provided configuration tool.
 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the presenting includes transmitting the data file to the customer.
 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the presenting includes hosting the data file on a world wide web interface.
 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes manipulable parameters that enable configuration of non-commodity product or service.
 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the manipulable parameters include upgrades, downgrades and swapping of components.
 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes non-manipulable parameters that contribute to the configuration of a non-commodity product or service

3 including parent components, orphan components, child components, configuration
4 components and optional components.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file is configured to be
2 incorporated into a procurement system, the data file providing a catalog of
3 configurable components.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the data file includes business rules in
2 a structured data format.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the business rules include rules for
2 manipulating data including functional rules and configuration rules for integrating
3 the data file into the procurement system.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes data shared by
2 the manufacturer and a host of the data file.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes a configuration
2 identifier, a price of the configuration, type of components, custom or bundled,
3 upgrades, downgrades and additions permitted with pricing, work flow data
4 identifying add configurations, discontinue configuration, replace configuration,
5 effective data, and a discontinue date.

1 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the data file includes pricing
2 according to predetermined agreements with the manufacturer and the host.

1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes at least one of
2 factory-installed components, non-factory-installed components, and subsystem
3 configurations.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes a core
2 configuration including:
3 commodity and non-commodity default services; and

4 customer-specific integration components.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the customer-specific integration
2 components include customer specific software and menus, images, customer asset
3 tag labels, and security cables.

1 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the customer-specific integration
2 components include at least one of transportation industry options and transportation
3 services.

1 20. The method of claim 16 wherein the factory installed, non-factory
2 installed, customer kit and solution data includes the associated Stock Keeping Units
3 (SKUs), including a third parties or a manufacturer generated SKUs and pricing.

1 21. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving an acknowledgment file approving configurations within the data
3 file.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the acknowledgment file includes
2 acknowledging each parameter of configurable products, including components,
3 pricing, services as acceptable and not acceptable.

1 23. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 transmitting an action code within the data file denoting product
3 configurations requiring replacement in a procurement system, the
4 action code permitting a purchaser receiving the data file to update
5 open orders in the procurement system prior to delivery of an order
6 without manual interaction.

1 24. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file provides data shared by a
2 purchaser's procurement system and a seller's invoicing system.

1 25. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file is an (Electronic Data
2 Interchange) EDI format.

1 26. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic data file is transmitted to
2 the purchaser using an SGML format

1 27. The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic data file is in a
2 proprietary file format.

1 28. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file is periodically updated by
2 the manufacturer to indicate pricing changes and production transactions

1 29. A computer system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a memory coupled to the processor; and
4 a communications port configured to transmit a data file, the data file
5 including a catalog of configurable products including at least one of
6 non-commodity products and services to be received by a purchaser,
7 the data file enabling the purchaser to incorporate the data file into a
8 procurement system.

1 30. A system for automating a catalog process, the system comprising:
2 means for creating a catalog of configurable products including at least one of
3 non-commodity products and services; and
4 means for presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the
5 presenting via a communication medium to a purchaser.